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**UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT  
DISTRICT OF NEW JERSEY**

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UNITED STATES OF AMERICA : Hon. Douglas E. Arpert  
:   
v. : Mag. No. 19-1582-1 (DEA)  
:   
VICTOR M. RODRIGUEZ : **ORDER FOR A CONTINUANCE**

This matter having come before the Court on the joint application of Craig Carpenito, United States Attorney for the District of New Jersey (by Elisa T. Wiygul, Assistant United States Attorney), and defendant Victor M. Rodriguez (by Lisa Van Hoeck, Esq.), for an order granting a continuance of the proceedings in the above-captioned matter from the date this Order is signed through March 31, 2021 to permit defense counsel the reasonable time necessary for effective preparation in this matter and to allow the parties to conduct plea negotiations and attempt to finalize a plea agreement; and the Court having entered Standing Orders 20-02, 20-03, 20-09, 20-12, and three extensions of Standing Order 20-12 continuing this and all other criminal matters in this district until March 12, 2021, in response to the national emergency created by COVID-19; and the defendant being aware that he has the right to have the matter submitted to a grand jury within 30 days of the date of his arrest pursuant to Title 18, United States Code, Section 3161(b); and six prior continuances having been entered; and the defendant, through his attorney, having consented to the continuance; and for good and sufficient cause shown,

IT IS THE FINDING OF THIS COURT that this action should be continued for the following reasons:

- (1) The parties have entered into plea negotiations, which may render any grand jury proceedings and any subsequent trial of this matter unnecessary;
- (2) In response to the national emergency created by COVID-19, the Chief Judge of this Court has entered Standing Orders 20-02, 20-03, 20-09, 20-12, and three extensions of Standing Order 20-12, which are incorporated herein by reference;
- (3) The defendant has consented to the aforementioned continuance;
- (4) The grant of a continuance will likely conserve judicial resources; and
- (5) Pursuant to Title 18, United States Code, Section 3161(h)(7), the ends of justice served by granting the continuance outweigh the best interests of the public and the defendant in a speedy trial.

WHEREFORE, it is on this 29th day of December, 2020;  
ORDERED that this action be, and it hereby is, continued from the date this Order is signed through March 31, 2021; and it is further

ORDERED that the period from the date this Order is signed through March 31, 2021 shall be excludable in computing time under the Speedy Trial Act of 1974.

s/DOUGLAS E. ARPERT  
HON. DOUGLAS E. ARPERT  
United States Magistrate Judge

Form and entry consented to:

/s/ Elisa T. Wiygul  
Elisa T. Wiygul  
Assistant United States Attorney

APPROVED BY:

/s/ J. Brendan Day  
J. Brendan Day  
Attorney-in-Charge, Trenton Office

s/ Lisa Van Hoeck  
Lisa Van Hoeck, Esq.  
Counsel for Defendant Victor M. Rodriguez

/s/ Matthew J. Skahill  
Matthew J. Skahill  
Deputy United States Attorney